

Re: Proceeding # 02-306

This is to express the support of the Greater Sacramento Urban League for allowing full and open competition in the long distance telephone market. We believe that fair competition among all telecommunications providers will generate savings for community-based organizations such as ours by reducing rates for long distance calls.

For this reason, we are urging you to support SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application.

According to the Telecommunications and Research Action Center, Californians will save up to \$800 million in combined local toll and long distance calling in the first year after SBC Pacific Bell enters the long distance market. This is a savings we cannot afford to pass us by.

As a non-profit, our organization is sensitive to any possibility of reducing our operational costs. The less money spent on necessary long distance phone calls, the more money we have for programs that benefit our region.

By allowing telecommunications carriers to offer the full array of services, including long distance, our organization can pick and choose the packages that provide us with the best value. In this way, our organization has more control over our expenses, resulting in better-run programs.

We hope you will support our efforts to reduce our expenses for the benefit of the community and allow SBC Pacific Bell to compete for long distance.

Thank you,

James Shelby, CEO
Greater Sacramento Urban League